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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

English Farming, Past and Present. By ROWLAND E. PROTHERO.

London, New York, Bombay, and Calcutta: Longmans, Green & Co., 1912. 8vo, pp. xiii+504. \$4.00 net.

Those who are acquainted with Mr. Prothero's *Pioneers and Progress of English Farming* (1888)—and there are none who can lay claim to familiarity with the literature of English agriculture who are unacquainted with that interesting and stimulating volume of nearly a generation ago—will welcome with especial relish this new volume, which, though in a sense it is a second edition of the earlier volume, yet contains so much new material with the old material so largely rewritten as to justify its publication under an entirely new title.

Chap. i of the earlier volume, entitled "Self-Sufficing Farming," has, with the inclusion of much new subject-matter, been expanded into two separate chapters in the new volume, entitled "The Manorial System of Farming" and "The Break Up of the Manor," which together form one of the most concise and satisfactory accounts of the feudal system and its decay and dissolution, on the strictly industrial or agricultural side, with which the reviewer is acquainted. A little more emphasis might have been placed, in the description, on the business organization and management of the manorial estate, though perhaps the tendency of the author throughout to emphasize the social rather than the purely business side of agriculture is responsible for this omission. The title "Farming for Profit" (chap. ii of the earlier volume) has been retained for chap. iii of the present volume—a much-enlarged discussion of the period of early enclosure for pasture and sheep-grazing, which constituted the first general phase of the development of capitalistic farming in England. Chap. iii of the previous volume, on "The Seventeenth Century," has, following a new chapter on "The Reign of Elizabeth," been expanded into two chapters entitled respectively "From James I to the Restoration" and "The Later Stewarts and the Revolution."

The succeeding chapters of the earlier volume, which discuss the contributions of Tull, Townshend, Bakewell, Coke of Holkham, Arthur Young, and others to the development and diffusion of the elements of agricultural science and practice in England, are closely paralleled in

the present volume. It is here, perhaps, that the revision has been least complete—and naturally enough, as these chapters were the heart of the historical parts of the earlier volume.

Following these chapters is another region of marked expansion in the new volume, comprising separate chapters on the "Corn Laws," the "Highways," the "Rural Population, 1780-1813," "Agricultural Depression and the Poor Law, 1813-37," and the "Tithes." The next to the last of the chapters just enumerated replaces, in part, chap. ix, "Science with Practice, 1812-45," in the earlier volume. Chap. x. of the earlier volume, "Science with Practice, 1845-73," has been replaced in the main by chap. xvii of the present volume under the title of "High Farming, 1837-74," where again the changes have been minor. The chapter in the earlier volume on "Agricultural Depression, 1873-87" has been enlarged and brought down to date in the new volume under the title "Adversity, 1874-1912." A concluding chapter (chap. xix) brings the formal part of the volume to a close.

There are, however, in the later volume, considerable omissions of material included in the earlier, and these omissions are quite as significant as the expanded portions. These omitted portions include the chapters on "Peasant Proprietors" (with its account of the French small holders), "Landlords and Natural Growth," "Distribution of Land," "Protection and Tithe Rent-Charge," "Legislative Aid," "Fiscal Relief—Local Taxation," "Self-Help not Protection," and "Agricultural Labourers." Portions of these omitted chapters are included in other chapters of the new volume already enumerated—particularly those on "Corn Laws," "Tithes," "Rural Population, 1780-1813," and the concluding chapter; but large portions are entirely omitted. In general the author has excised those materials which are not historical or which do not have to do with English conditions, past or present. Doubtless these omissions are explainable on the basis of his own statement in the preface of the present volume that the earlier volume was written "with the confidence of comparative youth and inexperience" and that it "expressed as certainties many opinions which might now be modified if not withdrawn." Of similar tenor is the sentence (p. 393), "Conjectures as to the future of farming, or programmes for its reconstruction, belong rather to prophets and politicians than to chroniclers." But the author declares (in the Preface) that time has only strengthened the two convictions, which were his motives for the writing of the original volume—that the small number of persons who owned agricultural land might some day make England the forcing-bed of schemes for land-

nationalization, and that a considerable increase in the number of peasant ownerships, in suitable hands, on suitable land, and in suitable localities, was socially, economically, and agriculturally advantageous. Again, though he is of the opinion that there has been a partial recovery of agriculture from the acute depression existing when the earlier volume was published, he regards the political outlook as "infinitely more menacing" at the present (p. 398). He views with alarm the apparent tendency of the landowners to withdraw from participation in public affairs in the rural districts and their inability or indisposition to unite on a "comprehensive programme of land reform on broad and general lines, while maintaining the principle that private ownership is the only satisfactory system for progressive land cultivation," against those who would add still heavier burdens to those encumbrances under which landowners are now staggering or who would even abolish private property in land entirely. He believes that while the condition of both farmers and agricultural laborers has improved since 1888, conditions for the landlords have materially changed for the worse; and he is of the opinion that not only do landlords and tenants have common interests and face common dangers, but that the attack on private ownership in land threatens to be disastrous, most of all, to the agricultural laborers. For these and other evils—existing or anticipated—he thus offers the same remedy as in the earlier volume, namely, that of small holdings for the agricultural laborers and others. But he puts it forward now with less enthusiasm, elaboration, and illustration, and perhaps with less confidence in its efficacy. The results, so far, of the Small Holdings Act are declared to be limited, and necessarily so on account of its faulty methods.

It may be said that while many pages are occupied with a discussion of the relative advantages and disadvantages of the disappearance of the commons and of the open-field farms, the conditions surrounding the resulting class of agricultural laborers receive less full treatment, historically, than might have been expected from the author's admission that the conferring of the parliamentary franchise has made the agricultural laborers the most important of the three classes which make up the agricultural interest (p. 411). The fact that this phase of the subject has received special treatment by Kebbel, Heath, Hasbach, and others may account for the less full treatment in the present instance.

No part of the new volume illustrates the larger emphasis upon history and the relatively smaller attention to present and prospective conditions which characterize the revision as a whole than the chapter

on the Corn Laws. The author's treatment is eminently judicial and worthy of the historical spirit. The mediaeval Corn Laws he finds to have been based on "principles of morality, if not of religion," and to have been "akin to the laws against usury" and a part of the legislation to establish "just" prices, in which the interests of consumers, producers, and the nation were alike collectively and continuously considered. This characterization of the Corn Laws in general he extends down to 1815. Nevertheless, though he believes that the Corn Laws in earlier days brought steady prices to consumers (p. 254), he concludes that the whole series of restrictive legislation of which the mediaeval Corn Laws were a part eventually defeated its own object (p. 256). During the first sixty-five years of the eighteenth century, inasmuch as England was in the main an exporter of grain and because of the fact that in case of bad seasons and crop failure the territory on which England had to draw comprised the neighboring areas in Europe, which were usually affected by the same climatic conditions as existed in England, the author believes that consumers were not injured by the duties on imports, while they profited somewhat in years of scarcity by the large reserve which the bounty on exports helped to maintain; and he considers it probable that the reign of George II was "the nearest approach to the Golden Age of the labouring classes" (p. 262). After 1765, however, when England henceforth ceased to be a corn-exporting country and became a buyer of foreign corn, there ensued remarkably high prices for grain, a growing importation of foreign corn, and widespread misery among the wage-earning population—a condition which the Corn Laws were futile to alleviate even if they be absolved from responsibility for the scarcity and high price of food. As a matter of fact, the author regards the unfavorable seasons and the war as the most important reasons for the dearness of corn during the period 1765-1815, and he gives it as his opinion that during the whole period from 1689 to 1815 "the marked deficiency or abundance of the harvest in any single year produced a greater effect on prices than was produced by the Corn Laws in the 125 years" (p. 253). Beginning with 1815 the Corn Laws were frankly protective, but, according to the author, could not have been instrumental in shutting out exports and in sacrificing the interests of consumers had it not been true that conditions had now changed and an additional and cheaper supply outside of England become available, particular reference being made in this connection to the increasing supply in the New World, where the crops were not affected by the same climatic influences that simultaneously determined the yield in England

and on the Continent of Europe. On the other hand, with the disappearance of the open-field farmers and the growth of the manufacturing class, the interests of the producers of corn came to be represented by a "comparatively small and dwindling class of landowners and farmers" instead of by the interests of the great majority of the population as had been the case previously. Accordingly, though the doctrine was almost universally accepted that "every prosperous nation must in ordinary seasons rely for its means of subsistence on its own resources, and must meet the growth of numbers with a corresponding increase in the supply of food" (p. 272), the logic of the situation finally resulted in the discrediting of the Corn Laws and in their ultimate abrogation.

There is no discussion of the tariff as a present-day problem in English agriculture.

In the chapter on the "Tithes," the historical origin of tithes is traced, their development as a legal liability shown and the conditions which led to the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 described. How the tithe, before the passage of this Act, tended to retard progress in agriculture is well brought out, and the passage of the Act is regarded as an important cause of the revival of prosperity in agriculture that began about 1836. Another cause of the more prosperous conditions which date from that time was the reform of the poor law accomplished in 1834, which is treated in chapter xv.

The main object of the volume as a whole—as of the earlier volume—the author declares in the Preface to be "to suggest that advances in agricultural skill, the adoption of new methods, the application of new resources, the invention of new implements, have been, under the pressure of national necessities, powerful instruments in breaking up older forms of rural society, and in moulding them into their present shape." The work abundantly justifies the object for which it was undertaken. It is a pleasure to testify to the thoroughness with which the author has delved into the various sources in the effort to throw a flood of light on every phase of the development of agriculture in England. Not only have the ordinary sources having to do with agriculture directly been utilized, but many other materials have been worked which deal with agriculture only incidentally and the contribution from which is frequently of especial value simply because of the fact that it represents unconscious testimony. Particular attention may be called in this connection to the fact that the volume is a conspicuous illustration of the service that literature may afford with reference to the investigation of an industrial subject. From drama and rhyme and song

the author has drawn for the purpose of throwing light on conditions otherwise obscure or for illustration of a point already established. The result is that the volume not only presents a complete and full account of the subject treated but it presents it in exceedingly attractive and readable form. It fills in the outline of the earlier volume with a fulness of detail and with a faithfulness of presentation that leave nothing to be desired—unless there be regret that in the fulness of detail the clearness and definiteness of generalization which characterized the earlier volume have been to a certain extent lost. A little attention to summary here and there would have been helpful, but perhaps the greater caution that has come with advancing years and the lessened disposition to put a matter in sharp outline or without modification have been responsible for what seem to be less clearly defined conclusions in the new volume.

The appendices have been similarly expanded, excised, and brought down to date. A feature is the annotated "Chronological List of Agricultural Writers down to 1700," which appears in a somewhat changed and considerably enlarged and improved form in the new volume.

A double-column index covering some 35 pages adds greatly to the usefulness of the book.

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Increasing Home Efficiency. By MARTHA B. and ROBERT W. BRUÈRE. New York: Macmillan, 1912. 8vo, pp. 318. \$1.50 net.

This book, composed essentially of a collection of articles published during the last two or three years in the *Outlook*, *Harper's*, and several other magazines, is in the main an argument for more scientific expenditure of the middle-class family income, with a view to increasing the social efficiency of the family. The budgets of 76 middle-class families have been collected and are analyzed in the book in a way intended to bring out the most effective combination of the various items included in the budget. To be socially efficient the home "must keep the members of the family in a state of body and mind and happiness that will make it possible for them to work at their highest capacity for the greatest number of years; it must give to the community children that are well fitted for citizenship and equipped to push civilization along;